

CLAIMS

1. A spoked wheel including a rim with a plurality of holes for a respective plurality of nipples, and an equal plurality of spokes secured to said rim by means of said nipples, characterized in that
5 said nipples are arranged to be fitted so as to be substantially gastight by screwing into the respective holes in the rim for the purpose of fitting tubeless tyres to the rim.
2. A spoked wheel including a rim with a plurality of holes for a respective plurality of nipples and an equal plurality of spokes
10 secured to said rim by means of said nipples, characterized in that each nipple is fitted so as to be substantially gastight into the respective hole in the rim and retained in said hole by means of axial bidirectional locking means.
3. A wheel according to claim 1 or 2, in which said rim is of the single-
15 channel type.
4. A wheel according to claim 1 or 3, in which said nipples and the holes receiving them on said rim have a taper gas thread in the sections where they fit together.
5. A wheel according to any one of claims 1 to 4 in which further
20 sealing means are inserted between the thread of the holes in said rim and the thread on the shank of said nipples.
6. A wheel according to claim 5 in which said further sealing means comprise adhesives or sealants.
7. A wheel according to claim 5 in which said further sealing means
25 comprise a seal.

8. A wheel according to one or more of the preceding claims in which said nipples comprise a hole into which a respective threaded end of the stem of the spoke is screwed and retained.
9. A wheel according to one or more of claims 1 to 6 in which said nipples comprise a threaded stem screwed into and retained in a
5 respective threaded hole made in the end of the spoke facing them.
10. A wheel according to one or more of the preceding claims in which said spoke has a light alloy stem.
11. A wheel according to one or more of the preceding claims in which
10 said spoke has a steel stem.
12. A wheel according to claim 5 or following in which a seating for a seal is made in the shank of said nipples.
13. A wheel according to claim 12 in which said seating for a seal is made in an intermediate position on said threaded section and said
15 seal provides sealing on the thread of the hole in the rim.
14. A wheel according to claim 12 or 13 in which said seal is of the O-ring type.
15. A wheel according to one or more of claims 9 to 14 in which the spoke is held abutted against the nipple as an extension of it.
- 20 16. A wheel according to one or more of the preceding claims in which the nipple has a blind axial hole running through it.
17. A wheel according to one or more of the preceding claims in which said nipple has a head shaped to provide a key feature for driving the nipple.
- 25 18. A wheel according to one or more of the preceding claims in which

said bidirectional axial locking means comprise a shoulder at one end of the shank of the nipple and also a thread on the shank of the nipple which can engage with a female thread to hold said nipple on the rim with said shoulder abutting against said rim.

5 19. A wheel according to claim 18 in which said seal is fitted onto the shank of the nipple close to said shoulder.

20. A wheel according to claim 19 in which a seating coaxial with the hole and intended for fitting said seal is arranged in the hole in the rim.

10 21. A wheel according to claim 20 in which said seating has a substantially cylindrical wall and forms an abutment for said shoulder.

22. A wheel according to one or more of claims 18 to 21 in which said female thread is made in a nut screwed onto the shank of the
15 nipple to grip said rim between said nut and said shoulder.

23. A wheel according to one or more of the preceding claims in which surfaces facing each other between said nipple and a larger-diameter part of the stem of the spoke are held apart by the formation of a space between them.

20 24. A wheel according to claim 23 in which a deformable seal is inserted in said space.

25. A wheel according to one or more of the preceding claims in which each nipple is connected to the corresponding spoke by a pivoting attachment.